

RESOLUTION NO. CR-31-07

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 117 WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE LOCAL CABLE/VIDEO FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the City of Grove City is a charter municipality and, as such, has the power to exercise all powers of local self-government as granted by the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grove City has the authority to enter into local cable/video franchise agreements pursuant to Federal Cable and State Laws; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 117 was introduced in the Ohio Senate on March 15, 2007, approved by the Senate Energy & Public Committee on May 8, 2007, approved by the full Senate on May 9, 2007 (as amended), and is now before the Public Utilities Committee in the Ohio House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 117 attempts to take local cable/video franchise authority away from Ohio municipalities and place such authority at the State level, in the Ohio Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Grove City Council believes Senate Bill 117 has serious implications for municipalities throughout Ohio in that it is yet another example of the State Legislature attempting to restrict the home-rule power of local governments to negotiate and enter into agreements for the good and welfare of its citizens.

WHEREAS, Grove City Council agrees with the stand taken by The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in a letter dated May 24, 2007, attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the concerns listed therein.

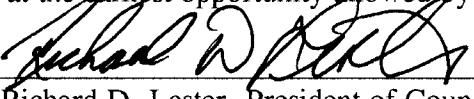
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVE CITY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

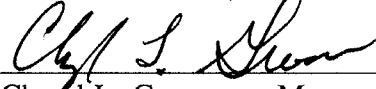
SECTION 1. For the reasons stated above, this Council does hereby oppose the passage of Senate Bill 117.

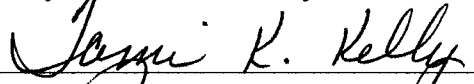
SECTION 2. The Grove City Council encourages all members of the Ohio House to vote "no" on Senate Bill 117.

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council be and hereby is directed to forward a copy to the Ohio Municipal League and Ohio Representatives representing Grove City districts.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall take effect at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.


Richard D. Lester, President of Council


Cheryl L. Grossman, Mayor


Tami K. Kelly, MMC, Clerk of Council


Bryan K. Elliott, Director of Law

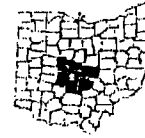
Passed: 06-04-07
Effective: 06-04-07

Attest:

I Certify that this resolution
is correct as to form.



Ohio Municipal League
Our Cities and Villages ★ Bringing Ohio to Life



Central Ohio Municipal Alliance



May 24, 2007

CR-31-07
Attachment

The Honorable
Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43266

Re: Sub. SB 117 Video Franchising Authority

Dear Representative :

On behalf of our coalition, we would like to express our opposition to Substitute Senate Bill 117, which provides for a statewide video franchising authority by the Ohio Department of Commerce. Despite information being circulated to the contrary, local government groups and others are still opposed to Sub. SB 117 despite changes made to the legislation during the Senate legislative process. While we appreciate the changes made to the bill while in the Senate, our organizations would like to see additional changes to better address our concerns.

Local governments welcome competition in the video service market and would like to foster competition in order to provide the best services to our residents. Unfortunately, Sub. SB 117 may do neither and, in addition, will have a negative impact on local governments, schools, libraries and other public institutions. Our organizations have prepared a list of concerns regarding Sub. SB 117 for your consideration. These issues are:

- Abrogation of Contract/Cable Company Unilateral Opt-Out
- Build-Out/Universal Access/Redlining Issues
- Franchise Fees - Calculation/Auditing
- Public Educational and Government Access (PEG) - Channel Assignment/Funding/Transmission Issues
- I-Nets - Grandfathering/Funding Issues
- Customer Service/Consumer Protection Issues
- Complimentary Video Service to Public Facilities

These are not new issues, as all of these concerns were raised during the Senate process. All of the groups represented herein are working together to propose common solutions to these issues and it is our goal to have these solutions to you next week.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to working with you and all interested parties on this bill to craft a compromise that everyone can agree upon. We believe that, with a limited amount of negotiation, the proponents and opponents could come to a reasonable compromise in very short order that will give Ohio a bill that creates the kind of open, accessible, competitively neutral market for video services without doing great harm to civic assets currently in place. Should you have any questions or for further information, please do not hesitate to contact any of the organizations.

Sincerely,

Susan Cave
Ohio Municipal League

Michael H. Cochran
Ohio Township Association

Chester Jourdan
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Kevin Futryk
Central Ohio Municipal Alliance

Tom Bishop
Local Voice Ohio

John Oberle
Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn

Jennifer Economus
Ohio School Board Association

Thomas P. Ash
Buckeye Association of Schools

Barbara Shaner
Ohio Association of School Board Officials



Representing Cities of Cincinnati, Dayton, Dublin
Miami Valley Communications Council

